

**AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**Approved**

**For meeting of October 21, 2004**

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Alan Fox  
Ron Salk  
Bruce Alton  
Douglas Haubert  
Carol Soccio  
Don Temple  
Deborah Veady  
Bernhard Clever

**MEMBERS  
ABSENT**

Bob Luskin

**STAFF  
PRESENT**

Chris Kunze  
Dottie Jones

**OTHERS  
PRESENT**

Sign-in sheet attached or  
available on request

**Call to Order**

Chair Alan Fox called the Airport Advisory Commission to order at 6:05 p.m., at the Long Beach Energy Department.

**Roll Call**

Mr. Chris Kunze, Airport Manager, called roll and certified that a quorum was present.

Chairman Fox stated that anyone who would like to speak may do so, and acknowledged that Kevin McAchren was present as the sole audience participant representing the public.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Airport Advisory Commission minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2004 were approved as submitted.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**Airport Bureau Staff Report**

- Chris Kunze provided a handout labeled "On the Runway" and stated that if the Commissioners have an article of interest for the newsletter that is distributed to tenants, to contact the Airport office. Mr. Kunze also provided copies of an article from the Long Beach Business Journal saying that the quotes from Mr. Mike Mais regarding the next steps for the EIR would be interesting and helpful. Mr. Kunze noted a third handout, permitting entry into AOPA Expo 2004, which is holding their convention October 21-23, 2004 at the Long Beach Convention Center.
- Mr. Kunze gave an update on Runway 12/30. He stated that the seven weekend closures were completed, however night work is still being done on Runway 30. He stated that a localizer was out because of work being done near the localizer. He stated that the localizer is part of the ILS system that tells the pilot if they are lined up properly with the runway. He stated that the localizer was down for several weeks, and pilots were using a VOR approach, which is a flight track coming over Los Alamitos, which generated many complaints. He stated that they are finished with that portion of work and the localizer is back on line. He stated that the contractor is finishing the grading work and safety work, and some transitional surfaces between the runways and taxiways. He stated that they will begin work on the centerline lighting and

touchdown zone lighting. He stated that the bulk of the disruptive process is completed. He stated that all of the work should be finished by the first of the year, however, they cannot turn on the touchdown zone or centerline lighting until the electrical upgrade is completed which is expected to be in April.

- Mr. Kunze gave an update on the AOPA event, saying that he was at the Convention Center at the Airport booth, while much of the Airport staff was assisting parking aircraft and shuttling pilots from the airfield to AirFlite, the FBO host for the event. He stated that to-date, there were 265 visiting aircraft with 2 more days for aircraft arrivals, but was told by AOPA to expect up to 1,500 aircraft depending on the weather. He stated that AOPA was expecting 10,000 people at the Convention Center. He stated that AirFlite is also hosting a static display and invited the Commissioners to attend. Commissioner Veady stated that she was a volunteer for the airfield shuttle driver, picking up pilots on the airfield and bringing them back to AirFlite, and stated that kudos should go to staff for a terrific and exciting event. Commissioner Clever asked about the Runway 30 drainage work and how it performed in the recent rainstorm. Mr. Kunze stated that the drainage is completed and that the safety areas need to be hydroseeded with grass to prevent erosion. However, there were no reports of erosion. He stated that the Runway still needs to be re-grooved to help with traction.
- Mr. Kunze reported on the flight slots. He stated that the 2003 settlement between the airlines, JetBlue, American Airlines, Alaska Airlines, the FAA and the City, included JetBlue relinquishing five of its slots to Alaska and American. He stated that as part of the process, the FAA sent a letter acknowledging that the Airport is grandfathered under ANCA and also recommended that slots should have six months to perform versus 24 months as was provided in the Flight Slot Allocation Resolution. He stated that on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the City Council approved a revision to the Flight Slot Allocation Resolution, which did two things: 1) changed the 24-month performance clause to six months and 2) approved a procedure to allocate slots on a first come first served process. Commissioner Alton asked for the reasoning for the change. Mr. Kunze stated that the City Attorney's office worked with their contract counsel Mr. Gatzke, to keep the flight slot allocation open and as clear as possible. Mr. Kunze stated that regarding the five slots that JetBlue gave up, there is a provision in the settlement that if those airlines relinquish the slots given to them, the slots would go back to JetBlue, which now would have six months to fly them. Commissioner Soccio asked if American Airlines had any recourse to take back those slots from JetBlue at a later date. Mr. Kunze stated that they would not have any such rights under the agreement.
- Chairman Fox asked that on a regular basis, staff report on the flight slot allocations.
- Chris Kunze reviewed the annual noise report that was provided to the City Council on October 12<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the 2003 settlement agreement provided a specific date certain for an annual noise budget report. He stated that the Noise Compatibility Ordinance provides for the same thing, but there is no specific date. He stated that there is now a requirement based on the settlement that a noise budget report is done for October 1-September 30, and that the report be made public by October 15<sup>th</sup> of every year. Mr. Kunze summarized the report saying that the airlines were slightly under their noise budget. He stated that in the ordinance, it states that new slots will not be allocated unless it can be done without exceeding the noise budget. He stated that although the airlines are slightly under their budget, there is not the assurance that

allocating additional flights would allow the airlines to stay within their noise budget. He stated that the statistics show that there were 2,348 more commercial flights in this budget year versus the prior year, including the activity on 25R, there were more day than evening operations, however, there were nearly 300 fewer late night operations, after 10 p.m. JetBlue had the largest reduction in the late night operations. He stated that based on the consultants report, the variable which drove the conclusion for the noise budget year and that there would be no additional room to add slots, is the addition and subtraction of MD-80s by American Airlines during the budget year.

- Mr. Kunze noted that at the City Council meeting of September 28<sup>th</sup>, they approved referring the matter of “Establishing Guiding Principles for Airport Marketing and User Responsibilities”, to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He stated that the original suggested action was to instruct the Committee to develop a set of guiding principles in the marketing and users responsibilities of the Long Beach Airport. He stated that the motion on the floor was different, providing additional direction. He stated that the following points were notes he made from the motion:
  1. Establishing financing policy regarding the user airlines for terminal upgrades,
  2. Interpretation of the 2010 Strategic Plan, in terms of conflicts in business development versus the residential component,
  3. Addressing City mitigation of noise impacts on homes and schools,
  4. Developing a policy that addresses the marketing of the Airport,
  5. Addressing the Airport Advisory Commission’s recommendations.

Mr. Kunze stated that Public Works has scheduled on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. a study session before the full City Council to review the Airport Advisory Commission’s process and recommendations to-date.

- Commissioner Alton asked if the presentation is background information or results of the Commission meetings. Mr. Kunze stated that it would include both.
- Chairman Fox asked if the guiding principles provided in the Airport staff’s recommendation would be included in the actions presented to the workshop. Mr. Kunze stated that those guiding principles would be referenced in the presentation.
- Mr. Kunze reviewed the load factor report, saying that in comparison to the previous month, there was significant change, which is expected between August and September, as September is a slow month for operations, as is October.
- Mr. Kunze gave the noise report, saying that there was a significant reduction in complaints between August and September primarily because of late night flight reductions.
- Regarding the Boeing Douglas Park issue, Mr. Kunze stated that prior to the City Council acting on the proposed rezoning and development agreement, the issue has to go through the Los Angeles County Land Use Commission, which happened on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The Land Use Commission found that the proposed project was consistent with their Countywide Land Use Plan. He stated that they have been conservative compared to other counties, using 65 CNEL and runway protection zones as the only metrics for compatibility. Mr. Kunze stated that the Commission

unanimously voted to take a position that they felt that residential uses within Douglas Park would be an improper use so close to an airport. He stated that that position does not have any regulatory force in that it is outside their purview. Chairman Fox asked if that recommendation goes to the City Council for review. Mr. Kunze stated that it does. He stated that another point of interest, is that at the Long Beach Planning Commission, the Long Beach Airport Association presented a letter from the FAA, stating that based on what they knew of the proposed residential development it would be in non-conformance with the City's airport grant sponsor's assurances. Commissioner Haubert asked why the LA County Land Use Commission was presented with the proposal if they have no ability to act. Mr. Kunze stated that under state law, they have the ability to either find it in conformance or not in conformance with their compatibility plan. He stated that if it is found to be in non-conformance, the City cannot approve it without overriding that judgment by a 2/3 vote.

- Mr. Kunze stated that the City Council requested to have reports from the Airport on the number of noise complaints, the violations, and any changes in property development on a monthly basis.
- Commissioner Alton asked if the flight tracking system would soon be online. Mr. Kunze stated that it is in the final stages of the property agreement and staff is looking at late December.
- Commissioner Veady asked regarding the request from City Council for monthly briefings, if it was requested by a majority vote, or if a single member requested the monthly briefings.. Mr. Kunze stated that the request was from one Councilmember, and the City Manager agreed that the Airport would provide that information on a monthly basis.
- Commissioner Alton asked about Parcel J's restaurant, and asked when it is scheduled to be opened. Mr. Kunze stated that he would ask the developer to make a presentation on its status. He stated that the last information given to staff is that it is to open in January, 2005.

### **Old Business**

#### **Review of Existing AAC Protocol Statement**

- Chairman Fox stated that he has asked Mr. Mike Mais to give a briefing on the Brown Act as a reminder. He stated that he would like to have such briefings on a yearly basis as well as a briefing on conflicts as related to individual Commissioners. He reviewed the Protocol Committee Report dated April 18, 2002. Commissioner Alton asked if there has been a breach of protocol over the course of the last year. Chairman Fox stated that presentations have been made to community associations, and he is not privy to specific language, however, he stated that speaking personally, items published in the Press-Telegram bring the housekeeping issues of protocol and conflicts as high profile items. Commissioner Haubert stated that he is in agreement with a yearly reminder of the procedures.

### **Commissioners Comments**

Commissioner Temple stated that in approving the staff recommendation and the phasing of improvements, what would be the cost of doing the improvements and what would be the cost of doing each phase. Mr. Kunze stated that there has been

conceptual thought to the cost, however, as yet, there is no detailed project definition or cost analysis. He stated that if 22% passenger capacity is put into phase 2 and also 4 aircraft parking positions for commuter parking, it would be more expensive to build it in that manner. He stated that according to the Commission's recommendations, the project would come back to the Commission to recommend a protocol of when to start building the capacity, and cost could be a consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dottie Jones, Airport Secretary  
Long Beach Airport

**APPROVED**